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Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected claims 24-26, 39, 43 and 46 as being anticipated by Zhang (US 6,456,261). The other claims were instead rejected as being not inventive either over Zhang or over other prior art documents combined with Zhang. In view of the above, the applicant has amended claim 24 so as to recite as follows:

A helmet for displaying environmental images in critical environments, comprising at least one video camera and means for displaying environmental images, further comprising a supporting structure that can be anchored to said helmet in order to support said at least one video camera and said display means, said supporting structure comprising a front adapter that can be coupled to a front edge of said helmet, a rear adapter that can be coupled to a rear edge of said helmet, and a rigid connecting element for mutually connecting said front adapter and said rear adapter, further comprising a frame that is mounted detachably on said front adapter, said frame comprising means for supporting said video camera and means for supporting said display means, wherein said frame comprises a bridge-like structure that mutually connects elements for coupling to said front adapter, said coupling elements being arranged on opposite ends of said bridge-like structure.

The new claim 24 thus recites, in addition to the features of the originally filed claim 24, that the helmet comprises a frame that is mounted detachably on said front adapter, said frame comprising means for supporting said video camera and means for supporting said display means, wherein said frame comprises a bridge-like structure that mutually connects elements for coupling to said front adapter, said coupling elements being arranged on opposite ends of said bridge-like structure.

Such arrangement is not disclosed or suggested in Zhang. In fact, Zhang does not disclose a helmet having a frame that comprises a bridge like structure that mutually

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connects elements for coupling to the front adapter, with the coupling elements arranged on opposite ends of the bridge-like structure.

Zhang discloses a front keeper that could be assimilated to the applicant's front adapter, and a front mount that should be assimilated to the applicant's frame. However, the frame of Zhang does not comprise a bridge-like structure that mutually connects elements for coupling to the front adapter, with the coupling elements arranged on opposite ends of the bridge-like structure, as defined in applicant's claim 24 and illustrated in figures 6d, 6e and 6f of the present application.

The provision of the bridge-like structure with its side coupling elements allows to mount a video camera and a display substantially irrespective of their weights.

In fact, the weight comes to be equally distributed on the frame that is connected to the front portion of the helmet, and thus the weight is also distributed on the whole front portion of the helmet whereon the frame is mounted. This guarantees that who wears the helmet can easily bear the weight of the equipment that is mounted on the helmet, without any problem.

The above arrangement allows to mount a large display, that is essential for the user and for the functionality of the device.

On the contrary, the arrangement claimed in Zhang does not allow an even distribution of the loads since the front keeper is adapted to receive the front mount (frame) with a central connection (male interface). The result is that the load that can be imposed on the frame is much lower than the load that the applicant's frame can bear.

In addition, the connecting element between front and rear adapters is rigid in the applicant's invention. This feature can be easily derived from figure 6d, for example, where it is clearly disclosed that the connecting element 65c is an element having an approximately quadrangular cross section.

On the contrary, in Zhang the connecting element is a strap that is certainly not rigid. This reduces the load that can be imposed on the front mount with respect to the applicant's invention. As a consequence, the display that Zhang can use cannot be as

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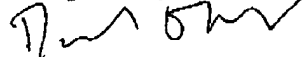
large as the display that is used in the applicant's invention.

Therefore, in view of the above, the applicant strongly maintains that amended claim 24 is both new and unobvious over the cited prior art documents.

The application is believed to be in order for acceptance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

However, the applicant is open to any suggestion the Examiner may have to improve the wording of the claims-

Respectfully submitted,



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